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629-02  
PATENT  
Docket No. 150.00640102  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Eugene P. Marsh ) Group Art Unit: 2815  
Serial No.: 09/942,200 )  
Confirmation No.: 8194 )  
Filed: 29 August 2001 )  
For: DIFFUSION BARRIER LAYERS AND METHODS OF FORMING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified application for examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please add claims 40-49. The new claims are provided below in clean form. For convenience, all pending claims, including those added hereby, are provided in Appendix A.

40. (New) The structure of claim 23, wherein the barrier layer comprises a chemical vapor deposited barrier layer.

41. (New) The structure of claim 23, wherein the at least a portion of the surface defines a small high aspect ratio opening.

42. (New) The structure of claim 23, wherein a thickness of the barrier layer is in a range of about 10 Å to about 10,000 Å.

43. (New) The structure of claim 42, wherein the thickness of the barrier layer is in a range of about 100 Å to about 500 Å.